

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed July 9, 2003, claims 1-8 and 31-44 were rejected. Claims 19-30 were allowed. Claims 1-8 and 31-44 are cancelled. No claims are added and no claims are amended. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner rejected claims 4-10, 23-24 and 31-44 under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In light of the cancellation of claims, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the rejection to these claims be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner rejected claims 6,9,10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In light of the cancellation to claims, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the rejection to these claims be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,623,982 to Okazaki. In light of the cancellation of these claims, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims be removed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 19-30 are allowable. In light of the cancellation of the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully request that allowed claims proceed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request objections and rejections. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension

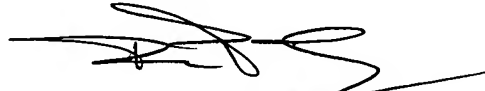
Docket No. 75824.1520
Serial No. 10/074,693
Customer No. 30734

Patent

of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to our docket no. 75824.1520.

Respectfully submitted,

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